

## TORNADO SIRENS

As in the case of many communities situated in tornado hazard areas, the City of Tullahoma maintains several tornado sirens, including one located at the Motlow College campus. The primary purpose of the sirens is to act as a warning system for people that are engaged in outdoor activities and who might be away from radio, television or their electronic devices.

The sirens are only activated when Tullahoma or eastern Moore county has been placed under a tornado WARNING. A WARNING indicates a tornado has been spotted by the National Weather Service (NWS) through radar or spotter and that immediate action should be taken. Official notification comes from either the NWS or the Communication Center and the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director. Once activated the sirens will sound for approximately three (3) minutes and shut off. If Tullahoma or its coverage area remains in the Tornado Warning Area the sirens will be activated again, and continue that cycle as the conditions demand. Citizens should continue to monitor the television, radio, weather radios, and other electronic means to remain informed of the tornado or severe weather direction. There is NO "all clear" signal incorporated in the siren system.

It is also important to note that the sirens are not activated for severe thunderstorms. This is due to the large number of thunderstorms that occur annually in our area and their overuse would lessen the effect of their use in a Tornado Warning.

As part of the siren maintenance program, the sirens are tested with an audible test the second Saturday of each month at noon to ensure they are in good operating order. In the event the weather conditions on the test date is questionable, no audible test is conducted so as not to confuse or alarm the public. The control system is tested each Saturday in a silent mode to ensure all is working properly.

Remember, the sirens will only be activated for a Tornado WARNING. When the sirens sound it is paramount that protective measures are taken. Any questions about the sirens may be directed to Captain Scott Jackson at (931) 455-0530, or [tpd@tullahomatn.gov](mailto:tpd@tullahomatn.gov). Any questions about Police operations may be directed to Chief Paul Blackwell at [pblackwell@tullahomatn.gov](mailto:pblackwell@tullahomatn.gov).